

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the substitute drawings filed on November 3, 2004 as shown in the enclosed replacement sheet. Applicant submits that the replacement sheets are formal. The amended drawings have simply been appropriately labeled in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" in accordance with the Examiner's objection. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 1-9 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner noted, in the Office Action, that PALM indicates a preliminary amendment dated February 17, 2004 was filed. However, Applicant respectfully submits that no preliminary amendment has been filed. Thus, Applicant requests that the above PALM's record be corrected.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-9 have been added in this Reply to clarify the present invention recited. Support for the amendments may be found in, for example, the original claims. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Objections(s)

The drawings were objected to for minor informalities. Applicant has amended the drawings filed on November 3, 2004 simply to be appropriately labeled in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" in view of this objection. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The abstract was objected to as informalities and improper language. The abstract has been amended in this reply in view of this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to for minor informalities and improper language. Applicant respectfully submits the substitute specification together with a marked-up version of the substitute specification. The substitute specification has been amended solely to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors due to translation and formatting. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention due to a variety of minor informalities. Claims 1-9 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited in view of this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008.150001).

Dated: 8/2/05

Respectfully submitted,

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